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VOL. 24, NO. 31, AUGUST 13, 1981

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FIJI ROMP LIKELY ON FRIDAY

Australia should have little trouble beating Fiji on Friday in a World Cup match at Melbourne's Olympic Park.

Going on the effortless romp in Suva recently, the Socceroos, clearly in a new frame of mind, should run up a fairly big score.

The return to form of Gary Cole couldn't have come at a more ideal moment: his hat-trick in Adelaide last Sunday must be taken as a marvellous omen.

It will be interesting to

see whom Les Scheinflug picks to partner Cole in the attack.

Eddie Krnecic is so hopelessly out of touch that one can discount him.

That leaves Dave Mitchell from Adelaide City and Peter Sharne from Marconi as the likely choices.

However, Sharne is also out of touch and it wouldn't surprise to see Canberra's Tony Brennan being preferred.

A few days later Fiji travels to Auckland to

play New Zealand.

The Kiwis have scrambled their expatriate players back from Australia: Cole, Sumner, Wooddin, Campbell and Wilson are back home again.

Only a major miracle could prevent a very comfortable New Zealand win.

Should the Kiwis somehow drop a point Australia would bounce back into World Cup contention.

But it seems too much to hope for...



APIA—Leichhardt's skilful Sebastian Giampaolo sweeping past Brisbane City's Bill Wilkinson during last Sunday's game.



In happier times: Jimmy Rooney and Gary Cole after an international.

Blanco quits Marconi

Luciano Nesti is the caretaker coach of Marconi until the end of the season.

The hapless Raul Blanco resigned under immense pressure after Sunday's defeat — his team's third in eight days — but would have been surely sacked had he prolonged his stay.

Marconi are among the more settled clubs regarding coaches.

Rale Basic and Les Scheinflug both spent two years each with the club.

Blanco lasted only 25 rounds.

This is the second blow to the little Argentinian in less than a year.

Last season he was sacked by St. George, after the team was relegated.

Just like in St. George, Blanco failed to exert his authority on some players.

He also bought rather injudiciously: many Marconi fans are still wondering about Picioane's value and the amazing Housseini — Raskopoulos exchange deal.

But let's be fair to Blanco: Marconi are not an easy team to coach — the fans demand constant, if not permanent success.

Both Basic and Scheinflug left the club involuntarily though both had some successes.

One feels that Nesti will also have problems with some of the swollen-headed "stars" of the team.

PSL TITLE IN CLOSE COMBAT

The 1981 Philips League championship now rests firmly between Sydney City and South Melbourne.

It's likely that the title will be decided when these two meet in Sydney on August 30.

The other earlier candidates — Adelaide City, Brisbane City, Leichhardt and Canberra — have all dropped out of the race and, in fact, have been overtaken by Lions.

But it's a two-horse race now, really.

These are the remaining commitments of the two teams:

SYDNEY CITY: LEICHARDT, Wollongong, SOUTH MELBOURNE, Preston, ADELAIDE CITY.

STH.MELBOURNE: Adelaide City, BRISBANE CITY, Sydney City, CANBERRA, Marconi plus Brisbane City (away, this week).

(At home against teams in capitals.)

So Sydney City have three home matches and two away — while South Melbourne have two home games and four away.

This gives Sydney City a slight advantage. So does the fact that they play their last match at

home while South Melbourne will play Marconi, in Sydney.

Still, it's more than likely that their direct clash on August 30 at the Sydney Athletic Field will decide the issue.

In the relegation battle West Adelaide are doomed, totally beyond

help.

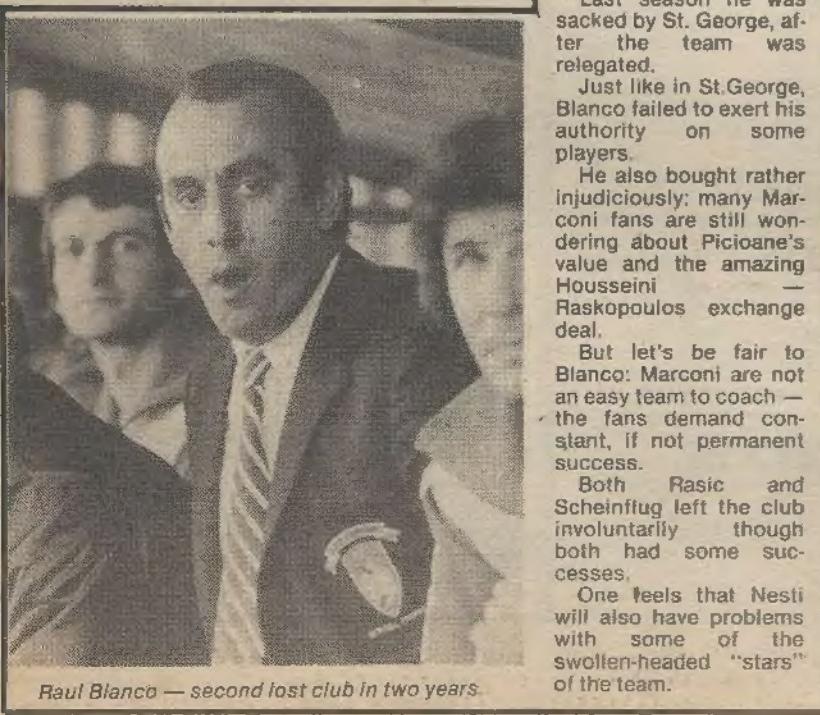
For the other spot Blacktown are "favorites" though Preston cannot feel too safe, either.

Heidelberg, Olympic and Footscray have all pulled away.

Blacktown's dismal home record — 9 points

from 13 matches — is ominous, especially when compared with Preston's 14 points from 12 games.

Preston have yet to play the two Adelaide teams at home as well as Sydney City and four points here would probably be life-saving for them.



Raul Blanco — second last club in two years.



Brisbane City goalie Kim Wishart complaining to an official about the litter his goal was pelted with last Sunday — for no reason at all.

WORLD NEWS...WORLD NEWS...

PARLEZ VOUS YUGOSLAV?

Yugoslav national coach Milan Miljanic is unhappy; another batch of internationals have signed for West European clubs.

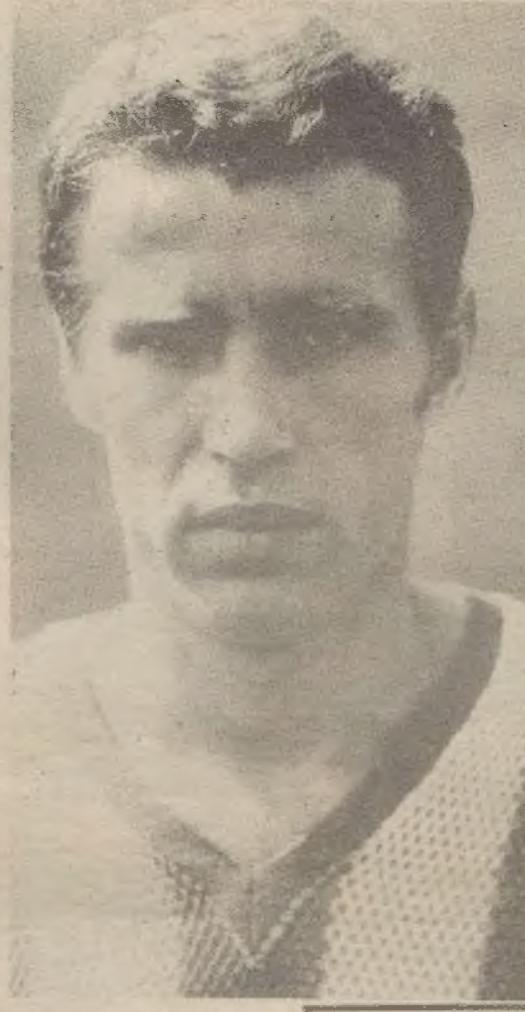
Admittedly, all have a clause in their contracts that they must be available for the national team — but this rule cannot be always enforced.

No less than 10 leading Yugoslav players have gone to French clubs while the brilliant Dynamo Zagreb winger Krvacevic (starred against the Socceroos in December) is now in Greece and Red Star's central striker Filipovic also seen in Australia a

few years ago) is with the Portuguese Benfica.

The 10 Yugoslavs who have signed for French clubs:

- Surjak (Hajduk — Paris SG)
- Sljivo (Liege — Nice)
- Topalovic (OFK — Lyon)
- Tucak (Dynamo — Metz)
- Halilhodzic (Velez — Nantes)
- Jankovics (Middlesborough — Metz)
- Luketic (Hajduk — Sochaux)
- Muslin (Red Star — Lille)
- Pantelic (Radnicki — Bordeaux)
- Radovic (Rijeka —



Vahid Halilhodzic



Branko Radovic

TAA fly the good sports.
It's better to fly with friends.



Trans Australia Airlines



Ivica Surjak

DUNLOP SPORTS
FOOTWEAR

LB41602

Brest)
West German first division clubs also like Yugoslav players.

Their present quota:
Hamburg: Djordjevic
Bochum: Zugcic
Braunschweig: Zavesic
Former Hamburg fullback Buljan has joined his compatriot Bogicevic in New York Cosmos.

Ferencvaros building up

Hungarian champions, Ferencvaros have lost midfielder Laszlo Mucha to Belgium — but have gained five talented new players for the season.

They are Ferenc Beles (Kecskemet), a stopper, Lajos Kvaszta (Honved Papp SE), a winger, Gabor Szanto (Diósgyör), midfielder, Laszlo Szabadi (Sellye), central striker and Gabor Poloskei, left winger.

The team's coach is still Dezso Novak, former Ferencvaros and international fullback.

Czechs play musical chairs

Maybe it's not played to the bewitching tunes of Smetana but the Czechoslovaks also love their coaching musical chairs game.

Quite a few clubs have changed coaches in the off-season with no more or no less logic than anywhere in the world.

Sparta Prague have lost Jiri Rubas and are being prepared by Taborsky until a successor is found.

Slovan Bratislava's new coach is Anton Urban, captain of the 1964 Olympic team, replacing Malatinsky who has gone to the Austrian Eisenstadt.

In Brno Bruckner is the new man in charge, following Svet, Zachar is now in charge of Tatran Presov (succeeding Hojsuk) and Stary will lead Slavia Prague instead of Musil.

Dukla Prague's problems are different: their international, Gajdusek, is leaving the club to return "home" to newly promoted Vrkovice.

About 250 players have changed clubs in the off season.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

• Didi, legendary Brazilian ace, has become the technical director of the Brazilian Cruzeiro, due to play in Melbourne in November.

★ ★ ★
• A total of 7,000 journalists and commentators will attend next year's World Cup finals in Spain.

★ ★ ★
• Another Hungarian going abroad: Laszlo Karai, former international midfielder of Videoton, will play for the Austrian Eisenstadt.

★ ★ ★
• The forcibly retired FIFA secretary general, Dr Kaser, will be paid seven years' salary as compensation. Only three years ago he signed a ten-year contract with FIFA.

★ ★ ★
• Four Swiss players have been caught using drugs (Coramol tablets) aimed at increasing endurance.

★ ★ ★
• Chile will make its 6th appearance in the World Cup finals when they travel to Spain in 1982.

★ ★ ★
• The Canadian team Edmonton Drillers have two former top German players: Peter Nogly (Hamburg) and Edi Kirschner (Bayern Munchen-Furth).

★ ★ ★
• Danish striker Henning Jensen who had some highly successful spells with Monchengladbach, Real Madrid and Ajax, has signed for the Danish Aarhus.

★ ★ ★
• The 18 captains of the West German Bundesliga voted for Paul Breitner of Bayern Munchen as the year's best player.

★ ★ ★
• The Italian Ascoli have signed a midfielder, Zauhi — from the Ivory Coast.

★ ★ ★
• Marangon, last year with Napoli, will play for Roma in the new season.

★ ★ ★
• Norwich have set Justin Fashanu's transfer fee at a cool \$3,500,000.

★ ★ ★
• Schalke received a transfer fee of \$400,000 from Köln for international striker Klaus Fischer.

★ ★ ★
• Austrian international Walter Schachner has been signed by the Italian Cesena.

★ ★ ★
• Peru played a 1-1 draw with Colombia in a World Cup match in Bogota (Colombia). The third member of the group is Uruguay.

★ ★ ★
• Moscow's famous Lenin Stadium has just celebrated its 25th anniversary.

★ ★ ★
• Rumania suffered a shock 1-4 defeat in a friendly match against lowly West German club Hannover.

★ ★ ★
• The average attendance at first division matches in Algeria is a healthy 15,000...

★ ★ ★
• Mexico's top player, Hugo Sanchez, will sign for the Spanish Atletico-Madrid.

★ ★ ★
• Brazil will play a friendly match against Chile on August 26, in Santiago and another one against Uruguay in September, at Belém, on the Amazon river.

★ ★ ★
• The Seattle Sounders won the friendly International tournament which also included Cosmos, Celtic and Southampton.

★ ★ ★
• Former Scottish and Newcastle star Bobby Moncur will be the new manager of Plymouth Argyle.

★ ★ ★
• Daniel Bertoni, now with Fiorentina, has been told by Argentinian manager Luis Cesar Menotti that he would be in the World Cup squad for 1982 — if he returned to Buenos Aires by April.

★ ★ ★
• Real Madrid prepare for the new season in the perfectly setup training camp at Zeist, Holland.

★ ★ ★
• Orlando, stopper of the Brazilian Vasco de Gama, will play for the Italian Udinese — alongside former Italian hero Causio.

PREVIEW OF PSL -By Andrew Dettre

PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE



ONLY PRIDE



Although they got beaten last Sunday, by local rivals South Melbourne, Preston were not disgraced.

If their solid midfield can dominate the game from the start, they should dictate terms and get the necessary goals.

West Adelaide have clearly folded up: their shattering home defeat of last Sunday illustrates this.

Nothing but sheer pride will drive their players on from now on and this may be insufficient against Preston who are fighting for their lives.

Our tip: Preston 3-0.

McGregor

FAST BREAKS



Olympic, having reached safety zone, can now play a more relaxed type of soccer against Lions.

With their rearguard once again solid and the midfield enterprising, Olympic should be strong enough to take the initiative from the start.

But then, against the counter-attacking Lions, is no life insurance.

Craig, Williamson and Daunt are extremely dangerous on the break while at the back the ever-green Hermiston's computerised soccer-brain keeps things under control.

Our tip: 1-1 draw.

NO METHOD



Oh for the memories of the old glamorous Hakoah v APIA clashes...

This modern version will lack the atmosphere and crowd support of their matches of bygone years — but won't be without some very high stakes.

Sydney City must keep a straight course if they want to win the title and cannot afford the slightest slip-up.

Leichhardt may be without O'Connor but even with him they look outclassed.

Our tip: Sydney City 3-1

Barnes

CLUB MARCONI

Bossley Park
Saturday, August 15

Variety night and floor show
Dance Connection

Booking fee \$3
7.30pm in the Auditorium

Sunday, August 16

DISCO
in the Auditorium, 7pm
with Cameron Syrett
Booking fee \$3.50.



RETURNEES



The second hurdle in four days will have to be cleared by South Melbourne when they go to Adelaide City on Sunday.

Adcity are now certain to be out of the title race as well as the Cup but they are not half as bad as their heavy loss of last week would suggest.

Mitchell will be eligible to play following Sunday's international and he could make things sticky for the visitors.

South Melbourne will have Blair and Davidson back, too — but will be without Wooddin, in New Zealand.

Our tip: 2-2 draw.

RESERVES



Without three of their stars — Wooddin, Davidson and Blair — South Melbourne will have a perilous journey north to meet Brisbane City on Wednesday.

Not that the Queenslanders are without headaches: in addition to Dunne, Ratcliffe is also likely to have a suspension-induced rest while Caldwell and Pimblett are on the injured list.

Due to their considerable reserve strength, South Melbourne should be able to weather the storm fairly well.

Our tip: South Melbourne 2-1.

IN THE MOOD



Sadly, the "provincial derby" between Canberra and Newcastle will be without any bearing on the League.

Both are destined to occupy middle-class positions on the table without any title hopes or relegation problems.

Canberra bounced back with a good win last Sunday — as they periodically do — but this time they will be without their midfield motor, Duncan Cole.

Newcastle are solid, fit and combative without any pretensions for greatness.

Our tip: Canberra 2-1.

SWEPT OFF



That marvellous, scintillating Heidelberg machine is back in business again.

The McKendry-magic worked: the team has found itself even without key defenders Bannon and Tansey.

When their rehearsed moves work, their attacks are lethal as West Adelaide found out last Sunday.

Foolscray have only a very remote chance of being relegated but perhaps just enough to put up a good fight.

Still, if Heidelberg can maintain their momentum, Foolscray are likely to be swept off their feet.

Our tip: Heidelberg 3-1.

THE ITALIAN DERBY



Brisbane City goalkeeper Kim Wishart makes a spectacular dive against Leichhardt last Sunday.



Former Australian international Butler, getting close to his best form.

MARCONI GAME CANCELLED

The PSL management committee decided to postpone the Marconi v Blacktown match to Wednesday, August 26.

This was done at Marconi's request as they have five players in the Australian squad for Friday's international.

However, at this stage it looks likely that only Henderson and Byrne will be actually in the team.



APIA CLUB

38-42 Frazer Street, Leichhardt
Phone: 82-0187

Friday, August 14
Sunday, August 16

PETER KAYE

International comedy impressionist with:

On Friday: Duo Angelos
On Sunday: Enzo Toppino

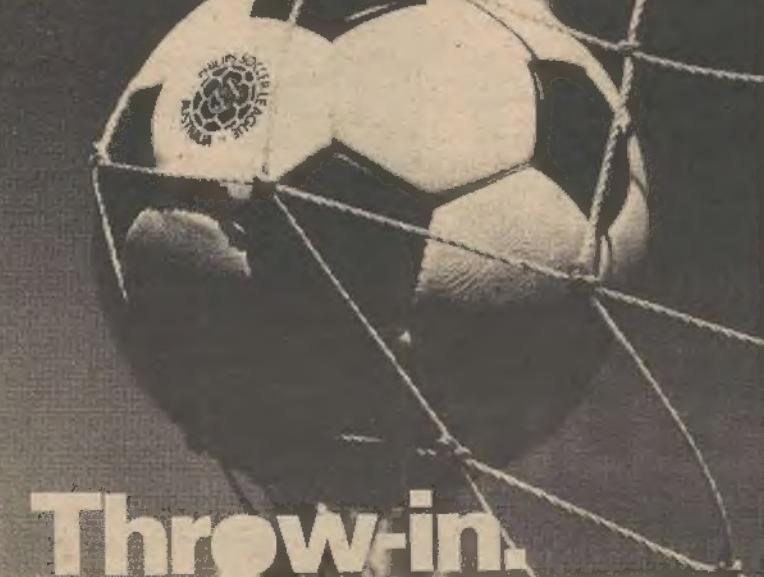
TEAM OF ROUND 25

MATSOPoulos (Canberra)	MASON (Newcastle)	HERMISTON (Lions)	NIVEN (Lions)
GAFFNEY (Brisbane City)	KATHOLOS (Olympic)	SHIRRA (Sth.Melbourne)	
COLE (Heidelberg)	WOODDIN (Sth.Melbourne)	LATHAN (Wollongong)	

PHILIPS LEAGUE 1981

ADELAIDE GIANTS	*	0-0	1-0	3-2	1-0	1-3	3-1	0-0	0-1	4-1	1-0	3-1	0-1	1-2		
ADELAIDE HAWKS	0-3	*	2-0		1-1		0-5	1-2	2-0	0-2	0-1	4-0		1-2	0-0	
BLACKTOWN DEMONS	1-5	4-0	*	1-2	2-2	0-2		0-1	0-2	2-2	1-2	0-0		1-0	0-1	
BRISBANE GLADIATORS		2-1	2-1	*	1-0	0-0	2-0	1-2	0-0	4-0		1-1	3-0	2-0	1-0	
BRISBANE LIONS	2-1	3-1		1-0	*	1-0	4-0	0-0	2-0	2-0	0-1	2-1	1-1	4-3	1-1	
CANBERRA ARROWS	0-0	1-2	2-2	3-0	2-3	*	5-0	1-5	0-1	0-0	2-2		2-1	2-0		
FOOTSCRAY EAGLES	1-1	1-1	2-0	1-0		3-1	*	2-2	2-1	1-2		2-1	1-1	1-0	1-1	
HEIDELBERG WARRIORS	1-2	2-0		2-0		1-1	*			0-0	1-2	2-3	1-0	0-1	0-3	
LEICHHARDT STRIKERS	3-0	1-0	3-2	2-2	0-0	2-0	2-2	*		1-1	2-1	1-1	0-1	1-0		
MARCONI LEOPARDS	1-4	1-0		1-1	2-1	0-2	1-3	3-1	*		1-2	1-0	2-1	1-0	1-1	
MELBOURNE GUNNERS	0-0	5-0	2-1		1-0		2-1	2-1	4-1	1-0	*	2-0	2-0	1-1	1-0	
NEWCASTLE KB	2-2	4-2	1-1	0-2	1-1	0-1	3-0		4-1		0-0	*	4-0	1-2	1-2	1-1
PRESTON RAMS			2-3	1-1	1-1	0-1	3-0	0-2	3-1	0-0	1-1	3-1	*	3-1	6-0	
SYDNEY OLYMPIANS	3-1	3-1	1-0	1-1		0-2	0-0	2-1	1-3	2-0	2-2		2-1	*	2-2	
SYDNEY SLICKERS			1-0	1-1	1-1	1-1	3-2	3-0	1-0		5-0		4-1	2-0	5-4	*
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	4-1	2-1	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-1	2-1	3-4	1-1		1-1	0-0	2-2	3-1	*	

Soccer Terms explained:
No. 12



Throw-in.

When the ball crosses the side touch-line, it is "thrown" back into play by a player from the team opposing that of the player who last touched it. The thrower must face the field of play with both feet on or outside the touch-line, and "throw-in" the ball with both hands from behind and over his head.

With a Philips Radio/Stereo Cassette Player combination in your car, you'll never be out of touch, or out of tune. There's a team of some 15 star-quality models of various types to choose from. Put one into play in your car soon.

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PHILIPS

SD1251

After the war comes
the Battle. Help Legacy's
105,000 widows
and children.



THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

• George Potter, Brisbane City. "At half-time I would have been happy with the draw; at the end I am disappointed that we didn't win."

• Willie Wallace, Leichhardt: "I cannot be unhappy with the point in view of the absence of three key players. We'll give Sydney City a shake on Sunday."

• Joe Gilroy, Lions: "A professional win. Marconi are a good side who are just not putting it together. We were not to be drawn again. Two goals are enough to win any game, and after last Wednesday we had done our homework. Youngsters Ogden and Wilson did well. It was a big occasion for them."

• John Margaritis, South Melbourne: "A furious female Leichhardt supporter had to be restrained from storming into the Brisbane City dressing room claiming that one of their players had spat on her as the teams were leaving the field."

• Martin Coe, Brisbane City, is getting back into top form, following a fracture of two fingers on his left hand.

• Peter Wilson says he doesn't remember when he last had to miss a match for disciplinary reasons. "I think it was in 1972," he says.

• Rale Rasic, Blacktown: "Seven of my players were sick. I'm surprised some of them finished the game at all."

• George Murray, Canberra: "I am delighted. We have avenged the first round draw in Canberra."

• The story is that Canberra's sponsorship for 1982 from Lotto is \$40,000 on the condition that all of that has to be spent on new players.

• Ken Morton, Wollongong: "I am glad the reshuffle has worked. Now we feel we can again beat any team in the PSL. We had Adelaide City on the run all afternoon. Fontana had a great game but go exhausted and that's why I replace him."

TOP PSL SCORERS

EVANS (Sth.Melbourne)	13
COLE (Heidelberg)	11
BODEN (Sydney City)	10
P. WILKINSON (Brisbane City)	9
KOSMINA (Sydney City)	8
MITCHELL (Adelaide City)	8
OLLERTON (Preston)	8
SOPER (Leichhardt)	8

PHILIPS LEAGUE

	AGGREGATE						HOME						AWAY								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	+	P	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	W	D	L	F	A
1 SYDNEY CITY	25	15	4	6	43	26	+ 17	34	12	9	3	—	28	10	21	13	6	1	6	15	13
2 STH.MELBOURNE	24	12	10	2	37	20	+ 17	34	13	10	2	1	24	8	22	11	2	8	1	13	12
3 BRISBANE LIONS	24	10	9	5	35	24	+ 11	29	13	9	3	1	23	9	21	11	1	6	4	12	15
4 BRISBANE CITY	25	10	9	6	29	20	+ 9	29	12	8	3	1	19	5	19	13	2	6	5	10	15
5 LEICHARDT	24	10	9	5	30	26	+ 4	29	12	6	5	1	18	10	17	12	4	4	4	12	16
6 ADELAIDE CITY	25	11	6	8	38	30	+ 8	28	13	7	2	4	18	12	16	12	4	3	4	14	12
7 CANBERRA	25	10	7	8	34	26	+ 8	27	12	4	4	4	20	16	12	13	6	3	4	10	15
8 WOLLONGONG	26	7	12	6	30	29	+ 1	26	13	4	7	2	20	15	15	13	3	5	5	10	15
9 NEWCASTLE	25	9	7	9	35	34	+ 1	25	13	4	5	4	22	15	13	12	5	2	5	13	19
10 MARCONI	23	9	4	10	20	33	- 13	22	12	6	2	4	15	16	14	11	3	2	6	5	17
11 FOOTSCRAY	25	8	6	11	27	41	- 14	22	13	6	5	3	19	13	17	12	2	1	9	8	28
12 OLYMPIC	24	5	11	8	31	33	- 2	21	11	3	5	3	15	15	11	13	2	6	5	16	18
13 HEIDELBERG	23	8	4	11	37	35	+ 2	20	10	3	2	5	10	12	8	13	5	2	6	27	32
14 PRESTON	25	6	7	12	32	37	- 5	19	12	5	4	3	23	12	14	13	1	3	9	9	25
15 BLACKTOWN	25	4	8	13	27	39	- 12	16	13	3	3	7	15	20	9	12	1	5	6	12	19
16 WEST ADELAIDE	24	4	3	17	20	46	- 26	11	11	3	2	6	11	16	8	13	1	1	11	9	30



WEEKEND GUIDE TO

PHILIPS LEAGUE



BRISBANE GLADIATORS

Likely squad: 1. Wishart, 2. Dunne, 3. Ratcliffe, 4. Tokesi, 5. Perry, 6. Gaffney, 7. Palinkas, 8. Pimblett, 9. Conner, 10. Low, 11. Caldwell, 12. Tripp, 14. Hamilton, 15. P. Wilkinson, 16. McVeigh, 17. B. Wilkinson, 18. Vincenzino, 20. Coe. Coach: G. Potter.

Wednesday, 3pm
Spencer Park



CANBERRA CITY

Likely squad: 21. Hoszowski, 2. M. O'Shea, 3. Williams, 4. Cole, 5. J. O'Shea, 6. Stark, 7. R. O'Shea, 8. Byrne, 9. Valeri, 10. McLaren, 11. Brennan, 12. Gibson, 13. Purdie, 14. Massa, 15. Matopoulos. Coach: G. Murray.

Sunday, 3pm
Bruce Stadium



ADELAIDE CITY

Likely squad: 21. Peressin, 2. Russell, 3. B. Nyskohus, 4. Besir, 5. Jones, 6. Perin, 9. Marocchi, 10. J. Nyskohus, 11. Mitchell, 12. Northcote, 13. Melita, 14. Miller, 15. Manou, 16. Villani, 17. Signore, 22. Przybylski. Coach: B. D'ottavi.

Sunday, 2.30pm
Olympic Sports Field



MARCONI

Likely squad: 1. Maher, 2. Brogan, 3. Degney, 4. Henderson, 6. Byrne, 9. Krcevic, 10. Mariani, 11. Sharne, 12. Picloane, 13. Muir, 14. Housseini, 15. Calderon, 16. Tomasich, 17. Colusso, 18. Johnston, 20. Corry. Coach: R. Blanco.

Sunday, 3pm
Marconi Stadium



HEIDELBERG

Likely squad: 1. Oliver, 2. McMillan, 3. Tansey, 4. Yzendoorn, 5. McLeod, 6. Selemidis, 7. Rooney, 8. Campbell, 9. Paton, 11. Bozikas, 12. Yankos, 14. Provan, 15. Taylor, 16. Cole, 17. Tasevski, 20. Reilly. Coach: L. McKendry.

Sunday, 3pm
Olympic Park



PRESTON

Likely squad: 1. Kastner, 2. Rainey, 3. Beech, 4. Ollerton, 5. Higham, 6. Faulkner, 7. Cullen, 8. Flavell, 9. McMillan, 10. Petrovski, 11. Ward, 12. Brown, 13. Lucchesi, 14. Little, 15. Stoikos, 16. Whittle, 17. McCluskey, 18. Boyle, 19. Farrell, 20. Clayton, 21. Wilson. Coach: P. Ollerton.

Sunday, 3pm
Conner Reserve



SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Likely squad: 1. Meier, 2. Moulis, 3. Cross, 4. Wilson, 5. Rowden, 6. Katholos, 7. Raskopoulos, 8. Cork, 9. Gavin, 10. Scott, 11. Jennings, 12. Ankudinoff, 13. Cotton, 14. Koussas, 15. Ziras, 16. Jamieson, 18. Laing, 19. Redfern, 20. Wilson. Coach: D. Collins.

Sunday, 3pm
Pratten Park



SYDNEY CITY

Likely squad: 1. Clarke, 2. Mullen, 3. Spanos, 4. O'Connor, 5. Bruce, 6. Murray, 7. Watson, 8. Barnes, 9. Boden, 10. Kosmina, 11. Lee, 12. Cant, 14. Gomez, 16. Patikas, 18. Souness, 19. Trenter, 20. Pezzano, 21. Ahearn. Coach: E. Thomson.

Sunday, 3pm
Sydney Athletic Field

1977: Brisbane City v St. Melbourne 2-0
1978: Brisbane City v St. Melbourne 3-4
1979: Brisbane City v St. Melbourne 1-0
1980: Brisbane City v St. Melbourne 0-1
1981: St. Melbourne v Brisbane City 1-0

MELBOURNE GUNNERS

Likely squad: 1. Laumets, 2. V. Bannon, 3. Davidson, 4. Lutton, 5. Xanthopoulos, 6. Rogers, 7. Wright, 9. Cummings, 10. Evans, 11. Buljevic, 14. Campbell, 15. Stevenson, 16. Shirra, 17. Wooddin, 19. Blair, 20. Tsigaras. Coach: J. Margaritis.

REFEREE: D. Nugent
Linesmen: C. Amos,
A. Kibbler



PAST RESULTS:

1978: Canberra v Newcastle 2-2
1979: Canberra v Newcastle 1-5
1980: Canberra v Newcastle 1-2
1981: Newcastle v Canberra 0-1

NEWCASTLE UTD.

Likely squad: 1. Dando, 2. Reaney, 3. Tredinnick, 4. Senkalski, 6. Drinkwater, 7. Sumner, 8. Mountford, 9. Jones, 10. Heys, 11. Buckley, 12. Mason, 14. Sneddon, 15. Curran, 16. Kamasz, 17. Storey, 18. Cowburn, 19. Stamp, 20. Gosling. Coach: R. Baartz.

REFEREE: K. Allen
Linesmen: V. Celestino,
N. Murray



PAST RESULTS:

1977: Adelaide City v St. Melbourne 2-0
1978: Adelaide City v St. Melbourne 1-1
1979: Adelaide City v St. Melbourne 3-0
1980: Adelaide City v St. Melbourne 0-1
1981: St. Melbourne v Adelaide City 0-0

STH. MELBOURNE

Likely squad: 1. Laumets, 2. V. Bannon, 3. Davidson, 4. Lutton, 5. Xanthopoulos, 6. Rogers, 7. Wright, 9. Cummings, 10. Evans, 11. Buljevic, 14. Campbell, 15. Stevenson, 16. Shirra, 17. Wooddin, 19. Blair, 20. Tsigaras. Coach: J. Margaritis.

REFEREE: P. Rampley
Linesmen: J. Rossis
K. Stokes



PAST RESULTS:

1980: Marconi v Blacktown 9-0
1981: Blacktown v Marconi 0-2

BLACKTOWN CITY

Likely squad: 1. James, 2. Wheatley, 3. Pollard, 4. Milovanovic, 5. Pointer, 6. Selvage, 7. Djordjevic, 8. Hormazabal, 9. Cuilna, 10. O'Donnell, 11. Manning, 12. Quarby, 13. Cuk, 14. Burrows, 15. Wallace, 16. Turner, 17. Jones, 18. Milosevic, 19. Krstic, 20. Rasmussen. Coach: R. Basic.

REFEREE: D. Rennie
Linesmen: B. Wilkinson
M. Loupis



PAST RESULTS:

1977: Heidelberg v Footscray 2-0
1978: Heidelberg v Footscray 0-1
1979: Heidelberg v Footscray 2-1
1980: Heidelberg v Footscray 3-2
1981: Footscray v Heidelberg 2-2

FOOTSCRAY

Likely squad: 1. Boland, 2. Hazabent, 3. Petrou, 4. Kyriakouleas, 5. Kondarios, 6. Jovanovic, 7. Simic, 8. Iloski, 9. O'Reilly, 11. Lujic, 12. Licanin, 13. Petrou, 14. Belic, 15. Kakantonis, 17. Cozzella, 18. Milne, 19. Potter, 20. Verweij. Coach: C. Cirkovic.

REFEREE: G. Neal
Linesmen: J. Fearn
N. Karlich



PAST RESULTS:

Preston v West Adelaide for the first time.
1981: West Adelaide v Preston 4-0

WEST ADELAIDE

Likely squad: 1. Crook, 4. Lorenzon, 5. Topaz, 6. Bozanic, 8. Manecas, 9. Lorenzon, 10. Honeyman, 11. McGregor, 12. Forde, 13. Haig, 14. Koulianios, 15. Marisic, 16. Brown, 17. Wright, 18. Smythe, 19. Kowalski, 20. Miller, 21. Hughes. Coach: P. Jakska.

REFEREE: C. Bambridge
Linesmen: J. Brennan
V. Upjohn



PAST RESULTS:

1977: Olympic v Brisbane Lions 1-0
1978: Olympic v Brisbane Lions 2-4
1979: Olympic v Brisbane Lions 0-1
1981: Lions v Olympic 1-1

BRISBANE LIONS

Likely squad: 1. Scanlan, 2. Ontong, 3. Niven, 4. Williamson, 5. Bennett, 6. Hermiston, 7. Hogg, 8. McLean, 9. Ferris, 10. Millman, 11. McNaughton, 12. McGregor, 13. Latchford, 14. Ogden, 15. Daunt, 14. Ogden, 15. Daunt, 16. Low, 18. Kostantinou, 19. Bryce, 20. Lowndes. Coach: J. Gilroy.

REFEREE: G. Power
Linesmen: K. Small
W. Lord



PAST RESULTS:

1979: Sydney City v Leichhardt 2-3
1980: Sydney City v Leichhardt 4-2
1981: Leichhardt v Sydney City 0-1

LEICHARDT

Likely squad: 1. Woodhouse, 2. Skellern, 3. McAusland, 4. Pullen, 5. Wilson, 6. Coyne, 7. Soper, 8. Pirie, 9. Giampaolo, 10. Kafka, 11. O'Connor, 12. Butler, 13. Bradley, 14. Leyden, 15. McKie, 16. Morsello, 17. Watts, 18. Gray, 19. Casacchia, 20. Parkes. Coach: W. Wallace.

REFEREE: J. Reeves
Linesmen: R. Davies,
R. Warren



SCOREBOARD

WOLLONGONG v ADELAIDE CITY 4-1 (3-0)

Wollongong (4-3-3)

Fleming (4)	Dunleavy (4)	De Graaf (4)	Ainsworth (4)
McBreen (4)	Adam (4)	Tredinnick (3)	
Fontana (5)	Bertogna (4)	Lathan (5)	
Villani (3)	Mitchell (3)	J. Nyskohus (3)	
Northcote (3)	Melta (3)	Marocchi (3)	
B. Nyskohus (3)	Jones (3)	Perin (3)	Russell (3)
	Peressin (2)		

Replacements: Przybyski (46m) for Peressin, Campbell (66m) for Fontana.
Goals: 1-0 Fontana (4m), 2-0 Fleming (10m), 3-0 McBreen (44m), 4-0 Lathan (48m), 4-1 Northcote (65m).
Referee: T. Boskovic — Crowd: 3,879 — Cautions: Fontana, Lathan, Marocchi.

Wolves coach Ken Morton pulled off a master-stroke by moving Arno Bertogna to a central striking position in an attempt to add more firepower to his team's attack.

The gamble paid huge dividends as Bertogna and Fontana were the pillars on which this great win was built.

Wollongong's win was no great surprise but it was the manner in which it was achieved that had the home crowd buzzing.

Bertogna and Fontana were in complete control in the air while Bertogna's ability to shield the ball set up several chances for his team.

Marocchi, Melta and John Nyskohus had no

answer to the vitality and mobility Wollongong showed in midfield where Adam and McBreen had complete control.

Playing in a bitterly cold wind, Wollongong were three up by half-time.

Adelaide City have now gone six matches without a win and this loss must surely put an end to their PSL title hopes.

John Lathan had a great match for Wollongong and laid on the cross for Fontana to

go into an early lead.

Six minutes later Flemings' chip floated over Peressin for goal number two.

Shortly before half-time Bertogna set up McBreen and his shot from the right produced the best goal of the match.

Peressin, who had a nightmarish first half, was replaced by Jack Przybyski.

Lathan scored Wollongong's fourth goal after the break and Northcote snatched a consolation goal for the

visitors shortly afterwards.

Bertogna and Lathan missed sitters for Wollongong but it didn't seem to matter: by now Adelaide's annihilation was complete.

This win has wiped the bitter memories of that 6-0 loss to Preston a week earlier.

Wollongong have no matches scheduled for the weekend — having played one more game than the others — but on this form they will surely stretch Sydney City to the limits next week.

— Paul Posetti

BLACKTOWN v CANBERRA 0-2 (0-2)

Blacktown (4-3-3)

Wheatley (3)	Pointer (3)	James (3)	Djordjevic (4)	Rasmussen (3)
Hormazabal (3)		Salvage (3)	O'Donnell (3)	
Krstic (2)		Jones (3)	Burrows (3)	
Gibson (3)		Valeri (4)	Brennan (4)	
Cole (3)		J. O'Shea (4)	McLaren (3)	
R. O'Shea (3)		Massa (4)	M. O'Shea (3)	Matsopoulos (4)
			Hoszowski (4)	

Canberra (4-3-3)

Replacement: Stone (67m) for McLaren.
Goals: 0-1 Cole (17m), 0-2 Valeri (19m).
Referee: T. Davies — Crowd: 2,740 — Cautions: McLaren, J. O'Shea, Gibson, M. O'Shea, Rasmussen.

Blacktown, requiring no less than two points to keep alive their hopes for the PSL, squandered yet another home advantage and meekly surrendered the match to Canberra enabling the visitors to maintain the best away record in the league.

Blacktown, ravaged by illness in the camp, tried to have the match postponed on the grounds of "epidemic" but their plea was rejected.

The team looked flat and lacked its usual zest and power.

However, no replacements were made during the match which left the chosen, some not quite fit, to battle on for the 90 minutes.

Canberra, due to

having a small squad, have also been carrying their share of injured players over the last few weeks.

Still, they settled down quicker than the hosts and Valeri's snapshot in the 7th minute just dipped over the crossbar.

Canberra began to threaten seriously and more often, with fullback John Matsopoulos making a few good overlapping runs deep into Blacktown territory.

As Blacktown employed a rigid man-to-man marking at the back, the only way to open the defence was to play ac-

DECIMATED

Blacktown began to feel the seriousness of their situation and Brian O'Donnell managed to smash a great shot against the upright in the 36th minute.

In the second half Djordjevic was thrown into the attack and succeeded in creating several anxious moments.

As the match wore on, tempers became frayed and numerous scuffles broke out.

Hormazabal in particular delivered some crude fouls but managed to escape scot-free while some of his opponents were given yellow cards for back-chats.

— Mike Mikolajczyk

NEWCASTLE v SYDNEY CITY 1-2 (1-0)

Newcastle (4-3-3)

Reaney (4)	Mason (5)	Dando (3)	Drinkwater (3)	Tredinnick (4)
Senkalski (3)		Sumner (4)	Jones (3)	
Heys (4)		Mountford (3)	Kamasz (3)	
Murray (3)		Boden (3)	Kosmina (4)	
Spanos (3)		Barnes (3)	Souness (4)	Watson (4)
		Robertson (4)	O'Connor (4)	Cant (3)
		Clarke (3)		

Sydney City (4-4-2)

Replacement: Mullen (64m) for Murray.
Goals: 1-0 Senkalski (34m), 1-1 Kosmina (49m), 1-2 Watson (83m).
Referee: R. Mee (ACT) — Crowd: 5,323 — Cautions: Nil.

Long serving goalkeeper Phil Dando and capable defender Roy Drinkwater, so often heroes in Newcastle colours, turned sinners in a dramatic closing stanza for Sydney City to retain their great PSL record against the Raiders.

Newcastle found themselves down 2-1 in the 83rd minute when a speculative cross from wily Joe Watson deceived Dando and the ball sailed high into the net.

In a determined bid for equality Newcastle skipper Drinkwater joined in an attack in the closing minutes and positioned himself splendidly but with only Todd Clarke to beat he

A WEE CROSS

stubbed the ground and completely missed the ball.

Over the piece Newcastle probably deserved a share of the points and after having established the lead in the 34th minute it was frustrating to see two sloppy goals reverse the score.

Despite the blustery conditions the first half was chockful of entertaining soccer with John Kosmina proving to be Drinkwater's most difficult opponent this season.

At the other end the auburn locks of Graham Heys were well in

evidence with an impudent display of incisive attacking play.

Heys ran through on a pass by David Jones then instead of attempting a shot he brilliantly cut the ball square and allowed Senkalski to pick his spot in the net in the 34th minute.

Could Newcastle hold on to their slender half-time lead? This was the main topic of conversation at the interval, but this question was answered four minutes into the second period.

A short corner involving Barnes and Watson saw the ball switched into the goalmouth

and less than resolute defending allowed Boden to touch in only to see Tredinnick push clear from the goalline but onto the chest of the inrushing Kosmina and the ball finished up in the net.

Boden and Kosmina made inroads into the home defence, the former Newcastle favorite beating three opponents before Dando picked up his cross.

In that fateful 83rd minute Watson was left unmarked after a freekick by Robertson and the winning goal resulted to keep alive Sydney City's hopes of the championship title.

— Myles Hay

FOOTSCRAY v SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1-1 (0-0)

Footscray (4-3-3)

Milne (3)	O'Reilly (3)	Boland (3)	Kondaros (4)	Kyriakouleas (4)
Ilioski (3)	Jovanovic (4)		Kakantonis (3)	
Cozzella (2)	Verweij (3)		Lujic (5)	
Redfern (4)	K. Wilson (3)		Jennings (4)	
Cross (3)	Katholos (4)		Raskopoulos (3)	
Scott (3)	Ziras (2)		Rowden (2)	Moulis (2)
			P. Wilson (3)	

Olympic (4-3-3)

Replacements: Belic (46m) for Cozzella, Gavin (75m) for Ziras, Jamieson (80m) for Raskopoulos, Hazabent (82m) for Belic.
Goals: 1-0 Kondaros (60m), 1-1 Redfern (79m).
Referee: D. Yelland (Vic.) — Crowd: 1,300 — Cautions: Nil.

I can now understand why Footscray coach Cedo Cirkovic has never had a high regard for Sydney Olympic.

"If it wasn't for their reasonable start to the season they'd be certainties for relegation," he told me three months ago.

Well, after seeing them on Sunday I couldn't agree more and even now I'd be prepared to put money on them finishing no higher than 14th in the PSL title.

That they left Schintler Reserve with a point was sheer daylight robbery and they will still be counting their blessings at the end of the week for being let off the hook by Footscray.

OFF THE HOOK

The Eagles outclassed them for all but 20 minutes of the game but had only one goal to show for their efforts.

Zdravko Lujic streaked past Danny Moulis down the left flank so many times I lost count of the chances he created but somehow both Johan Verweij and Bruno Cozzella failed to convert his crosses into goals.

As early as the seventh minute Lujic set the pattern for the game when Peter Raskopoulos was forced to stop a certain goal by fouling him in the area.

Finally the pressure paid off on the hour mark when Zoki Ilioski's corner was turned back into the area by Kakantonis

reliable penalty taker Zoki Ilioski smashed the resultant spotkick against the upright and Steve Kakantonis blasted the rebound over the bar.

The threat of Lujic pushed Moulis into a panic and two bad mistakes by the fullback presented clear scoring opportunities for Cozzella in the 30th minute and Kakantonis in the 65th but both chances again went begging.

Finally the pressure paid off on the hour mark when Zoki Ilioski's corner was turned back into the area by Kakantonis

and Jim Kondaros controlled the ball then turned and hit it into the back of the net.

However, conceding the goal stung some life into them and the substitution of Tom Gavin for Jim Ziras paved the way for an equaliser.

Gavin took a wing position with newcomer Jim Redfern moving inside and Ken Wilson moving into the backline to fill Ziras' spot.

And it was the substitute which laid on the cross for Redfern's equaliser in the 79th minute.

— Paul Galea

WESTFIELD SCOREBOARD

WE'VE MADE SHOPPING FUN AGAIN! COME AND SEE!



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BRISBANE LIONS v MARCONI 2-0 (1-0)

Lions (4-3-3)

Ontong (4)	Bennett (4)	Scanlan (3)	Hermiston (5)	Niven (4)
Ogden (3)	Ferris (4)		Wilson (3)	
Williamson (4)	Daunt (3)		Low (4)	
Hunter (4)	Krnceanic (4)		Sharne (3)	
Housseini (3)	Byrne (2)		Jankovic (3)	
Degney (3)	Henderson (3)	Mariani (3)		Brogan (2)
		Corry (3)		

Replacements: Tomasich (46m) for Brogan, Picioane (54m) for Hunter.
Goals: 1-0 Ferris (28m), 2-0 Williamson (49m).
Referee: D. Nugent — Crowd: 2,240 — Caution: Jankovic.

Marconi (4-3-3)

Lions and Marconi resumed their confrontation in windy conditions and for 20 minutes both sides appeared content to size each other up.

Then Lions put on the pressure and Bennett nearly added to his already impressive goal tally when he soared high above everyone to crash a header against the bar with Corry well beaten.

Four minutes later Niven forced his way down the line, cut across the back and squared to Ferris who took his time before placing the ball away into the corner of the net.

Bennett was keen and again got into the area but could only blast high

Take a gusty wind playing crude tricks, a bumpy, uneven ground, add to it the absence of several key players, compound it with further injuries during the game — and you'll get an untidy, scrappy, low-standard encounter.

The Leichhardt v Brisbane City match was just that: an uninspiring, dour struggle not quite fit for two teams so highly placed on the table.

Leichhardt, without the suspended Wilson and the injured Hughes and O'Connor, looked like a ship which has lost its captain, navigator and purser, too.

Brisbane City had to make do without the injured Coe and Caldwell

over as he went off balance.

Marconi was trying hard to counter Lions' aggression with some pretty one-touch football but always the moves broke down before a strike could be made at goal.

Krnceanic got himself into some good positions but was usually crowded out, by sheer weight of numbers.

Jankovic blasted a shot high over when he was allowed a sight at goal.

Sharne came closest just on halftime when he

for the rest of the match.

They accomplished very little, only Krnceanic coming near with a long drive, and Jankovic claiming a penalty after he had had an opportunity to shoot and dallied too long, permitting a tackle to be made.

Lions win again and perhaps the "big two" should be taking note!

— Jim Binnie

SECOND BITE

speculated a 25-metre drive that scraped over the top.

Marconi substituted Brogan, who had been having a terrible time against Low, but it took Lions only four minutes to go further ahead.

Daunt outjumped the defence and nodded on to Williamson who blasted the ball against the bar.

The ball fell down to him and this time the striker made no mistake.

Marconi brought on Picioane but the game was all over and Lions were quite content to let the visitors run at them

ner's cross from the right was swept in by the ever alert Hamilton.

It was all Brisbane City now. In the 66th minute Soper, more awkwardly than viciously, brought down Gaffney inside the box but Bill Wilkinson slammed the penalty wide with a wild, almost angry shot.

Some six minutes from the end came the partition of the points.

Hamilton broke on the right, crossed and Gaffney, with a contortionist move, headed the ball just under the crossbar.

In the end, it was a fair result, a token reward for the effort produced by the two teams.

— Andrew Dettre

LIMP LOOK

and the suspended Dunn, then quickly lost McVeigh with a pulled thigh muscle and had Pimblett and Paul Wilkinson limping for most of the 90 minutes.

No wonder that the whole match had a limp look about it.

Leichhardt's two-goal lead at halftime was somewhat flattening.

From their second chance — after a diving Butler header earlier — they went into the lead when the all-arms-and-legs Soper, looking like a windmill out of control, chased a long pass and rammed the ball home.

After that chances fell

"KING" COLE

Socceroo coach Les Scheinflug could be excused if he had mixed feelings over the happenings of this match. His striker-in-chief, Gary Cole hit top form with a vengeance to hammer home a hat-trick, while Martyn Crook, the goalkeeper who will replace the injured Allan Maher against Fiji on Friday, allowed five goals.

But if Scheinflug is worried that Crook is in the throes of a form slump, he can relax because the big Westad custodian was left hopelessly exposed by his inadequate backmen and had no hope of saving any of the goals.

The facts are that if it were not for the exploits

of Crook in brilliantly saving attempts by Cole, Jim Campbell, Bob Provan and Theo Selemidis, Westad would have suffered an even more shattering defeat.

As it was, this was the worst defeat inflicted upon Westad at home since the inception of the PSL five years ago.

And coming on top of their five goal loss to South Melbourne the previous week, Westad have had a horrible fortnight during which their hopes of retaining PSL status have slumped to an abysmal level.

From Heidelberg's

suddenly developed into distinct scoring possibilities.

Westad survived, but their luck ran out from the second minute after the resumption when Cole began his goal blitz which was to reap him three in an inspired 27 minute burst.

Cole had hardly completed his rout when Campbell joined the demolition party with two goals in an eight minute spell.

In a nothing ventured nothing gained gamble, Westad coach Peter Jaksa substituted Peter Kowalski for Aldo Lorenzoni and new UK import Colin Gregson for Tim Brown in the second half.

— Allan Crisp

WEST ADELAIDE v HEIDELBERG 0-5 (0-0)

West Adelaide (4-4-2)

	Crook (4)			
Maricic (3)	Forde (4)	Kambas (3)	Bozanic (3)	
Brown (3)	Honeyman (3)	Marwe (3)		
	Lorenzoni (3)	Smythe (3)	McGregor (3)	
	Paton (4)	Cole (5)		
Selemidis (4)	Bozikas (3)	Rooney (4)	Campbell (4)	
Yankos (4)	Provan (4)	Yzendoorn (4)	McMillan (4)	
	Oliver (4)			

Heidelberg (4-4-2)

Replacements: Kowalski (52m) for Lorenzoni, Gregson (68m) for Brown.
Goals: 0-1 Cole (47m), 0-2 Cole (61m), 0-3 Cole (74m), 0-4 Campbell (77m), 0-5 Campbell (84m).
Referee: D. Campbell (SA) — Crowd: 3,200 — Cautions: Bozanic, Rooney.

Threatening weather did not prevent one of the season's best crowds from gathering at Middle Park for what promised to be a tense encounter.

No doubt about it, for there was not a loafer on the park when the opening gambit had shown what was ahead for the fans.

Both defences were tested in turn. Whittle, Lucchesi and Brown were all in lively moods and Stevenson, Wooddin and Evans came closest to scoring for South when an Evans header scraped the post at the 8th minute.

Lucchesi broke through when Blair

panicked, but this shot was a poor one.

Cummings seemed clear through at the 12th minute, when he was fouled by Petrovski as a last resort.

Steve Wooddin continued showing the top form in attack, which has been a feature of his play with South in conjunction with Alun Evans and Branko Buljevic.

Claude Lucchesi had the opportunity to score at the 33rd minute, but fumbled and allowed Blair to clear.

A collision between Evans and Preston

NO LOAFERS

keeper Wilson, stirred some bad feeling, and it was good to see Wilson keeping the peace with his team-mates.

The halftime break saw Robbie Cullen replace Alan Whittle, but it was Wooddin who took the ball right up to the goal line before cutting the ball back for Evans to beat the Preston custodian at the 50th minute.

Wooddin repeated his skills for Buljevic to just head past five minutes later.

A Doug Brown freekick at 64 minutes

was a poor effort which was many metres wide.

Preston were awarded a penalty kick when Laumets manhandled Cullen as a corner kick was being taken.

Laumets saved well, and South drove forward immediately to put Preston under threat as Wooddin performed miracles, then laid on for Shirra to convince the good crowd that he, too, can score goals.

Peter Ollerton came on to stake his mark on the game, and one shot with two minutes to go produced a miraculous save from Laumets.

Duncan Cummings lobbed a late one onto the bar with Wilson stranded — Jock Stephen

STH. MELBOURNE v PRESTON 2-0 (0-0)

South Melbourne (4-3-3)

Bannon (4)	Blair (4)	Laumets (4)	Xanthopoulos (3)	Davidson (4)
Cummings (4)		Stevenson (4)	Shirra (5)	
Evans (4)		Wooddin (5)	Buljevic (4)	
Brown (4)				
Boyle (4)		Lucchesi (4)	Whittle (4)	
		Farrell (4)	Flavell (3)	
Beech (3)	Petrovski (4)	McMillan (4)	Rainey (3)	
		Wilson (4)		

Preston: (4-3-3)

Replacements: R. Cullen (45m) for Whittle, Ollerton (70m) for Flavell, Rogers (73m) for Evans.
Goals: 1-0 Evans (50m), 2-0 Shirra (70m).
Referee: J. Fearn — Crowd: 11,500 — Cautions: Beech, Brown, Ollerton, Evans.

MELITA POISED FOR UPSET

St. George officials must have been cursing their luck last week when Croatia managed to grab an injury time winner against Inter Monaro and stay at the top of the State League table.

The Monaro match was St. George's last hope that Croatia might drop at least a point, for Croatia's final two games are against Bankstown and Parramatta...

Despite the high optimism within the Bankstown camp at present it would really be the upset of the year if the Towners took even a point from the high flying Croatia.

The difference between St. George and Croatia this year has been minimal.

But Croatia have an added edge of being consistently good, rather than breathtakingly brilliant in patches as the Saints have been this year.

They also have a slice of luck; the number of one goal victories scored by Croatia is a sign of that.

We tip Croatia to easily take both points from Bankstown in a 2-0 win.

St. George have to face Melita this week in a tough end of season battle.

Melita are determined to get revenge for their first round loss, the tought of which still makes Melita officials wince.

The Saints should have the edge over Melita and we tip a tight 2-1 result for St. George.

At the other end of the table Parramatta tackle North Sydney and both are desperate for points.

This should be a nail-biting match and it wouldn't surprise if Parramatta got the points to keep things really tight at the bottom until the last round.

We tip a 2-1 Parramatta win.

Other games this weekend see Riverwood meet Inter Monaro, Sutherland play Canterbury, Avala take on Polonia and Manly play host to Auburn.

Polonia's slim hopes of a top four position rest on them beating Avala and Sutherland losing to Canterbury, something we can't see happening now.

Our tips: Monaro to beat Riverwood 2-0, Sutherland to beat Canterbury 3-1, Avala to hold Polonia 1-1 and Manly to down Auburn 3-1.

THIS WEEK:

DIVISION 2

Campbelltown City v Lane Cove Utd. Sat., Lyndhurst Park, Riverstone Schofields v Baulkham Hills, Sun., Schofields Park: Glad Hornsby v Mt. Druitt Town, Sun., Pioneer Park, Nth Ryde v Liverpool Albion, Sun., Nth Ryde Oval: Bonnyrigg v Dee Why, Sat., St. Johns Park: Queens Park E/S v Marickville Rockdale, Sun., Erskineville.

DIVISION 3

Eastern Creek v Kingsford, Sun., Gawar Park: Hurstville Zagreb v Artarmon, Sun., Edensor Park: West Ryde Rovers v Port Hacking, Sun., L.H.Waud Sigrid, Bondi Marine v Wentworthians.

A disputed goal two minutes into injury time enabled Croatia to scrape through 3-2 against Monaro and keep the lead at the top of the NSW State League last weekend.

Croatia now head the table on 45 points, one ahead of St. George with two rounds remaining.

Bankstown lifted themselves off the bottom of the table thanks to two sloppy back passes by Parramatta in their 2-0 win.

Bankstown have now picked up six points from their last three games and have 14 points, one ahead of Parramatta.

In other matches last weekend third-placed Melita drew 1-1 with Canterbury, Manly beat North Sydney 3-2 and Auburn defeated Avala 1-0 after losing 2-0 on Saturday.

The other Saturday games saw Polonia and Sutherland draw 0-0, while St. George beat Riverwood 4-0.

At the Bruce Stadium in Canberra before 2,400 spectators, Monaro pulled the score back to 2-2 against the high flying Croatia, only to lose in injury time through a Marijan Kovacic goal.

Monaro claimed Kovacic had received the ball in an off-side position from left winger Hilton Silva but the goal stood.

Silva had scored two goals in the first half in the 16th and 38th minutes, but Monaro pulled one goal back a minute before halftime when captain Bobby Noble scored from five metres.

Monaro played more determinedly in the second half and forced a penalty which Noble converted to draw level.

Melita failed to finish off many chances despite dominating the match against Canterbury.

DIVISION 4

Sat., Waverley Oval: Paddington v Paddington Park, Sun., Campbelltown, Sun., Schofields Park: Glad Hornsby v Mt. Druitt Town, Sun., Pioneer Park, Nth Ryde v Liverpool Albion, Sun., Nth Ryde Oval: Bonnyrigg v Dee Why, Sat., St. Johns Park: Queens Park E/S v Marickville Rockdale, Sun., Erskineville.

DIVISION 5

Auburn Jun. v Mac. Uni. Sat., Progress Park: Glengarrie Utd. v

Both goals came in the second half. Melita scoring through striker Terry Jones, and Canterbury equalised 15 minutes from the end when Greg Brown scored.

Officials of both clubs conceded that the Saturday clash between Avala and Auburn was a spiteful affair which resulted in several injuries, a spate of bookings and a lot of ill feeling.

Auburn played badly and were downed by goals from Mark Samuels and Branko Karanfilovski. However, the next day the tables were turned and Auburn recovered their composure to dominate Avala.

Referee Peter Ramptey kept a tight rein on the game and wasted no time in sending Jim Izatt and John Lembryk off for alleged fighting.

A goal from midfielder Terry Bertram was enough to get Auburn the points.

Bankstown led 2-0 at halftime against Parramatta, but in the second half were put under pressure as Parramatta continually pushed forward.

The first goal came in the 21st minute when striker John Beater intercepted a soft back pass, and three minutes before halftime, another bad back pass let midfielder Peter Rea in to score.

But Haynes' crucial save was not the best in an even match that produced few clearcut chances.

Polonia's goalkeeper, Ziggy Kalinowski, pulled off a superb save in the 24th minute, tipping a header from Sutherland's captain, Nigel Groome, past the post.

St. George strikers Dez Marton and Ernie Campbell scored two goals each in the Saints' 4-0 win over a young Riverwood side.

Campbell, who had an outstanding game, first broke through in the 35th minute.

St. George wore down the defence in the second half with goals from Marton in the 51st and 67th minutes, and Campbell's second in the 73rd.

DIVISION 6

Haberfield, Sat., Pensley Road, S/Complex: Pagewood v Cardean, Sun., Jellicoe Park: Syd Maccabees v Edensor Park, Sat., Sydney 4/Fld., Hawkesbury Dist., v Chullora, Sun., Nth Richmond Oval: Moorabank v Green Valley, Sun., Hammondville Park.

DIVISION 7

Colo Colo v Trasandinos Sports, Sun., Knight Park, St. Sydney v Blacktown Wands, Sun., Booralee Park, Bl/tn Work, v Hajduk, Sat., Layltaby Reserve, Pymatta v Robins, Sun., Eric Primrose: Liverpool Rang v Liverpool City, Sun., Ireland Park: Liverpool Utd. v Bankstown Spots, Sun., Childs Park.

DIVISION 8

Nth. Sydney v Manly 2-3(2)

North Sydney: Katsavetas, Retore, Stenning, Blue Matheison, S. Wilson, Minutolo, Mitchell, Morello, T. Wilson, Termasana, Manly: Ellis, K. Falconer, Doyle Emery, Stocks, Geoghegan, Jack P. Falconer, Smith, Reagan, Fox.

Goals: 0-1 Fox (13m), 0-2 Jack (41m), 0-3 Reagan (60m), 1-3 T. Wilson (70m), 2-3 Retore (85m).

Referees: B. Wilkinson: Crowd: 135. Cautions: Geoghegan.

Goals: 1-0 Beater (21m), 2-0 Rea (42m)

Referee: D. Reimer, Crowd: 200.

BANKSTOWN v RIVERWOOD

1-0 (1-0)

Bankstown: Lachowicz, Radovac, Usher, Rodsley, Greg Lynch, Rea, Glen Lynch, Siret, Nocera, Beater, Ferguson.

Riverwood: Gibcombe, Beardon, Blackburn, Butcher, O'Donnovan, McCorrie, Rydstrand, Savor, Bullock, Tracey, Langton.

Goals: 1-0 Rodsley (pen 36m).

Referee: G. Power, Crowd: 130.

POLONIA v SUTHERLAND 0-0

Polonia: Kalinowski, Zoumis (Maite 14m), Jiersa, R. Budini, Galas, Sookee, Divani (Noble 69m), Garlowski, Lemczynski, Szobczyk, A. Budini.

Sutherland: Haynes, Hestad, Cashman (Walkins 20m), Donnelly, Dal Forno, Murphy, Groome, Meades, Rogers, Beggs (T. Bush 73m), P. Bush.

Referee: T. Davies, Crowd: 230.

NTH. SYDNEY v MANLY 2-3(2)

North Sydney: Katsavetas, Retore, Stenning, Blue Matheison, S. Wilson, Minutolo, Mitchell, Morello, T. Wilson, Termasana,

Manly: Ellis, K. Falconer, Doyle Emery, Stocks, Geoghegan, Jack P. Falconer, Smith, Reagan, Fox.

Goals: 0-1 Fox (13m), 0-2 Jack (41m), 0-3 Reagan (60m), 1-3 T. Wilson (70m), 2-3 Retore (85m).

Referees: B. Wilkinson: Crowd: 135. Cautions: Geoghegan.

WARRINGAH v MELITA 0-3

Warringah: Katsavetas, Retore, Stenning, Blue Matheison, S. Wilson, Minutolo, Mitchell, Morello, T. Wilson, Termasana, Manly: Ellis, K. Falconer, Doyle Emery, Stocks, Geoghegan, Jack P. Falconer, Smith, Reagan, Fox.

Goals: 0-1 Fox (13m), 0-2 Jack (41m), 0-3 Reagan (60m), 1-3 T. Wilson (70m), 2-3 Retore (85m).

Referees: B. Wilkinson: Crowd: 135. Cautions: Geoghegan.

AVALA v AUBURN 2-0

Avala: Ahrens, Lembryk, Turnbull, Fairclough, Vujnovic, Ruiz, Bateman, Pearson, Youssef, Samuels, Karanfilovski.

Auburn: Bowman, McInerney, Pigmelja, Bates (Bleiby 82m), Sullivan, Quigley, Bertram, Izatt (Daley 46m), Brown, Pondekas.

Goals: 1-0 Samuels (20m), 2-0 Karanfilovski.

Referees: G. Power, Crowd: 250.

Cautions: Pigmelja, Daley, Pondekas, Quigley, Lembryk.

AUBURN v AVALA 1-0(0-0)

Auburn: Bowman, McInerney, Callanan, Pigmelja, Bleiby, McDonald, Quigley, Bertram, Izatt (Daley 46m), Brown, Pondekas.

Goals: 1-0 Bertram (17m). Referee: P. Ramster, Crowd: 320. Cautions: Izatt, Lembryk.

INTER MONARO v CROATIA

Inter Monaro: Caputo, Francis, Crawford, Noble, Santolin, Falzon, Valeri (Colveraldo 78m), Charles, Link, Salgado, Heywood.

Croatia: Watson, A. Kovacic, Pagano, M. Kovacic, Coleman, Vidaic, H. Silva, Steven (Parker 78m), Borges, Hensman, M. Silva.

Goals: 0-1 H. Silva (17m), 0-2 H. Silva (38m), 1-2 Noble (44m), 2-2 Noble (pen. 62m), 2-3 M. Kovacic (90m).

Referee: V. Celestino, Crowd: 2,400. Cautions: Charles Hensman.

ST. GEORGE v RIVERWOOD

4-0 (1-0)

St. George: Fraser, Duarte, Terry, Barton, Rylands, McDonald, Davies, Stone, Skeen, Gamble, Marlon.

Riverwood: 1-0 Campbell (35m), 2-0 Marlon (51m), 3-0 Marlon (67m), 4-0 Campbell (74m).

Referee: B. Fowler, Crowd: 1,000.

ST. GEORGE v RIVERWOOD

4-0 (1-0)

St. George: Fraser, Duarte, Terry, Barton, Rylands, McDonald, Davies, Stone, Skeen, Campbell, Marlon.

Riverwood: 1-0 Campbell (35m), 2-0 Marlon (51m), 3-0 Marlon (67m), 4-0 Campbell (74m).

Referee: B. Fowler, Crowd: 1,000.

KURINGAI v BELMORE

Belmore, struggling to get away from the dangers of relegation, held the leaders scoreless but only until halftime.

Win a wind sport game, Kuringai got into gear after the interval scoring two goals within 10 minutes.

The first came from defender Derek Sidey and the second was finished off by striker John McGranor.

Kuringai: Antman, Haines, Robertson, Sidey, Hammond, Williamson, Magill, Gould (Gross), Seach, McGranor (Moroni), Stewart, Coach: H. Noon.

Belmore: J. Hawthorne, Jones, Martin, P. Hawthorne, Cruger, Kirwin, Vargas, Gary Billingham (Oughorn), Parkinson, Palmer, Warren, Smith, Coach: O. Klaus.

YUGAL v NTH. BANKSTOWN 3-2

Yugal played like champions in the first half but at the end were given a fight by the struggling Norths.

In a burst of top, exciting foot-

FIRST DIVISION

—By Charles Spiteri

It looks almost certain that the first division championship will be decided in the last match of the season when contenders Yugal and Kuringai meet.

Both teams won this week, not very impressively, but enough to deserve both points.

Three points behind are newcomers Fairy Meadow who climbed up another spot following a surprise draw by Wollongong against Penrith.

Wollongong, who lost to Yugal last week are out of the race but already planning for next season.

Coach Mike Johnson has been approached by the club committee to renew his contract for next season and will be meeting them sometime this week.

Johnson lost six of his best players this season to various clubs and will be starting his plans early to acquire some strong replacements for 1982.

Blacktown joins Wollongong in the fourth spot after scoring another five goals against University. In other matches, Bathurst drew with Warringah and Guildford drew with Revesby.

Highlights of this weeks matches were:

WARRINGAH v MELITA

Warringah were twice in the lead and holding the upper hand but at the end they were lucky to get a point in an exciting finish.

SPIDER'S NET

With Allan Maher



Last week's Cup semifinal won't be forgotten in a hurry — not by me, anyway.

Almost on fulltime, I managed to fracture my cheekbone.

Next an operation was required to rectify the problem.

The enforced lay-off will at least enable me to get rid of some of the problems I have been carrying for many weeks now.

If it didn't hurt, I would have laughed at reading a report last week in a daily that I wouldn't play again this year.

Now we have reporters who not only tell us how we should play but also tell us how long we should stay out with injuries.

I believe some of my comments in this weekly column have caused a few rumbplings out Blacktown way.

Eddie Thomson, Sydney City: "It's become a real habit taking two points away from Newcastle but I thought today that we would have had to be content with only one when down 0-1 at half-time."

Joe Watson, Sydney City: "It was only a wee cross from the wing, but I wouldn't mind getting the winner every week with one like that."

GUNNERS SHOT DOWN

The postponed match of Brisbane City v South Melbourne Gunners will be played this week Wednesday, at 3pm, at Spencer Park.

South Melbourne sought a postponement because of the absence of Alan Davidson and Steve Blair with the Socceroos and Steve Wooddin with New Zealand.

However, the ASF ruled that the match has to be played.

The rules state that clubs can ask for postponement if at least three of their players are away on Australian national team duty — foreign commitments clearly don't count.

There is no doubt that this puts South Melbourne under tremendous handicap in the Brisbane match.

Brisbane City, with an excellent home record, will be favored to win — but shouldn't do worse than getting a draw.

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HE IS BUILDING THE SAME TEAM FOR THE SECOND TIME

—By Andrew Dettre



Heidelberg coach Len McKendry — he can create and also attract glamour.

This has been a sad year for Heidelberg.

From the heady peaks of 1980, through a series of dizzying gyrations, they plummeted down not just to earth but to the status of PSL tailenders.

Most of their wounds have been self-inflicted, a wasteful, almost sinful exercise in appalling club leadership and management.

The Greeks would probably have a word for it; they usually do. I call it stupidity.

The problems started after their brilliant 4-0 Grand Final win in 1980 with a minor dispute involving coach Len McKendry.

He asked for a written contract for 1981, roughly on same terms as before. The club refused. Nobody knows why.

So McKendry was forced to leave, together with veteran Pat Bannon, the brain of the defence, branded as "troublemaker."

Jimmy Rooney took over as coach but the team's fade-out began.

Rooney's play, under the extra load and stress, started to suffer while his relative inexperience as a coach merely compounded the problems.

And that's how things went for months until, at long last, McKendry was asked to return.

I saw Heidelberg about 10 weeks ago: a disorganized, low-spirited rabble.

And I saw them again 10 days ago against Olympic, getting close to being once again the classiest, most methodical and entertaining team in the PSL.

And all this the handiwork of McKendry, a prematurely greying, quiet Englishman.

While we talk in a restaurant, his hands fidget with the ashtray, salt-shaker and coffee-cup; very fine, almost feminine hands, more like those of a watchmaker than a football coach.

Every time I speak with McKendry about soccer, I get the same impression: he is one of the very few exceptions to the species.

He is articulate and thoughtful, not for him the few worn cliches so many other coaches and even international "stars" have as their whole vocabulary.

("We knock the ball in...we find the target man...we lay off the ball..." and other inanities designed for simpletons.)

He talks of Heidelberg as his masterpiece, a sculpture on which his work was interrupted by outside forces.

"It has taken me the whole of the seven weeks since my return to begin re-creating the team's style and rhythm," he says.

"First we had to work on the defence because the team was conceding about two goals a match. This is now down to about one goal a game.

"Now we are working on our attack.

"The old style isn't quite back yet but it's coming. We missed the

usual pre-season build-up and for many weeks the team was paying a heavy price for that.

"The club now admits that all the politicking which led to the off-season disruption was avoidable.

"But the time lost then just cannot be made up during the season."

And Heidelberg does have a style, unique in Australia.

The way they build up the attack from the back, use the midfield to trigger the action, how they employ the very rapid wallpass, how Cole and Paton run off the ball to create space for others — these don't happen by accident.

Those who were lucky enough to see them at their best in 1980, say against Leichhardt or in the Grand Final, must remember the undoubtedly class of a superbly entertaining team.

McKendry believes that soccer is all about positive possession: the art of knowing how to hold and when to release the ball.

"Ask any youngster why he plays soccer and he'll say because he likes to play with the ball."

"That instinct should be translated into positive virtues in a team."

"Any side that I coach must learn not to give the ball away carelessly: we don't believe in the long punt forward."

"If necessary, we play the game a little shorter and build up slowly."

"But everything is based on purposeful possession."

McKendry — an Englishman — with South American or Continental philosophies...

"The opposite of my principles is the English game where they are happy or at least willing to give the ball away and then fight madly to get it back."

"This creates a sense of competition, contest and excitement, especially if both teams do the same."

"But does it lead to results?"

ours.

"Without a national league Australian soccer would take an enormous backward step."

"We wouldn't attract the type of players that we need and certainly not the corporate support."

McKendry, while not a boisterous man, is not shy either.

He admits that he would love to coach the national team.

"It would apply if the position became vacant. It's an enormous challenge and no self-respecting coach should ignore it."

"I have many ideas which I would like to put into practice and this is the arena I would need."

"In the PSL most teams know exactly what Heidelberg does and they try to stop us."

"At international level you get more freedom for your ideas, more chance for surprise."

"The better style and method you can build into a team the higher the level required to implement them."

"Sometimes it's more difficult to play against a hard physical team than against a more sophisticated, more 'cerebral' one which you meet on the international circuit."

"That is one reason why our Victorian State team has been doing so very well in recent years against overseas sides."

What would he do differently from Gutendorf if he did become national coach?

"First of all I would establish some stability in the team. I would want the players and others to see and feel all that."

"Gutendorf made some fatal mistakes but the worst was his lack of consistency and random selections."

"He failed to build a nucleus of a team, let alone a whole team."

"Also, he never paid enough attention to the important principle of slotting pairs or trios into the team."

"Here I mean Cole and Paton or Krnecic and Jankovic but not crossbreeds."

"It's an old principle and it has worked well for many countries."

"It's very silly to select a team without trying to use complete components from the same clubs."

"In the national team he was told to 'find space' for himself."

"It's easy to say that—but you have to show the man how to find it."

"It's no secret that Gutendorf gradually developed a sense of jealousy about McKendry: the more the Victorian's name was pushed forward as an alternative—or the better Victoria's international results became—the more paranoid Gutendorf became."

Perhaps subconsciously, this also turned Gutendorf against many Heidelberg players who might have symbolised for him a possible rival.

At one stage or another, Yzendoorn, Banovic, Tansey, Rooney, Bozikas, Cole, Paton and Selemidis were all tried out by Gutendorf.

At the end all but three dropped out of calculations and some—like Selemidis and Paton—without explanation.

McKendry claims not have noticed any jealousy on Gutendorf's part; clearly, none of the many violent utterings of Rudi got back to him.

"True," he says, "we didn't see eye to eye. Early in the piece we had some disagreements about coaching methods and schedules."

"I'm not sure why most of the Heidelberg players were chopped out though I believe Rooney was definitely eliminated because of his close association with me."

"He might have also felt that as many of these players worked under me in Heidelberg and the Victorian State team, they were set in my ways of soccer and he couldn't force his own will on them."

"I still don't know why he didn't rely on the highly developed and successful style of Heidelberg for the national team."

"Take Gary Cole, for example. In Heidelberg he was used to having balls played to him when he was a marked man."

"In the national team he was told to 'find space' for himself."

"It's easy to say that—but you have to show the man how to find it."

"In Heidelberg he managed it, through our method and became the top scorer in the PSL. In the national team he couldn't find his feet."

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SCOREBOARD

COCA-COLA BOTTLERS STATE LEAGUE

GRADE 2

Rang.Hay.	7	1	11	32	53	15
Bl.Work.	5	3	11	32	44	13
S.Sydney	4	5	10	21	38	13
Banks.Sy	3	3	13	37	51	9
Lpl.Rang.	2	4	15	19	46	8
Pmata.Utd.	1	4	14	16	66	6

GRADE 2

Colo.Colo	16	3	—	81	15	35
Robins	12	4	3	54	20	28
Lpl.City	7	5	3	42	16	27
Tinios	9	7	2	43	22	25
S.Sydney	10	3	6	33	29	13

DIVISION 4

Bl.Ward.	7	7	5	36	27	21
Bl.Work.	9	2	8	27	34	20
Rang.Hal.	5	5	9	36	41	15
Lpl.Utd.	4	6	9	24	37	14
Lpl.Rang.	5	2	12	30	38	12

GRADE 1

Pmata.Utd.	2	2	15	10	80	6
Banks.Sy	1	—	17	12	64	2

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

COCA-COLA BOTTLERS STATE LEAGUE	I	II	III
St.Geo v R'wood	4	0	2
Polonia v S'land	0	0	2
Avala v Auburn	2	0	2
Monaro v Croatia	2	2	2
Cant.M'vile v Melit.	1	1	0
Auburn v Avala	1	0	2
NS Int. v Manly	2	3	1
Banks v Pmatta	2	0	1

GRADE 2

Concordia	12	5	2	36	19	28
Fairfield	11	2	6	45	29	24
W.Holby	9	5	6	49	26	23
N.Rocks	10	2	7	31	26	22
W.St.Geo.	8	5	6	52	43	21

GRADE 1

Canlev.Ht.	9	3	7	42	44	21
Chelsea	8	4	7	38	35	20
Winst.Hi	7	6	6	40	38	20
Revesby	6	4	9	28	35	16
Eastwood	6	3	10	31	41	15

GRADE 2

Maroubra	3	8	10	35	51	12
Ryde Dist.	2	1	16	20	58	5
W.Sl.Geo.	16	1	2	56	23	33
Fairfield	12	4	3	46	21	28
Canley.Ht.	12	4	3	33	18	25

GRADE 1

Concordia	10	5	4	25	19	25
Fairfield	11	2	6	45	29	24
W.Holby	9	5	6	49	26	23
N.Rocks	10	2	7	31	26	22
W.Sl.Geo.	8	5	6	52	43	21

GRADE 3

Auburn	16	1	5	60	17	33
Bankst.	14	3	4	57	32	31
S'land	14	2	4	49	18	30
R'wood	11	7	3	42	21	29
Manly	11	4	7	48	36	26

GRADE 2

St.George	12	1	8	39	26	25
Melita	9	8	5	41	15	32
C'bury	12	5	7	43	25	29
S'land	11	5	8	42	25	27
R'wood	10	7	5	33	21	27

GRADE 1

P'matta	5	9	21	45	19	19
Polonia	2	10	12	19	44	14
Avala	3	8	15	20	47	12
W.Sydney	4	3	17	16	46	11
Polonia	4	3	17	16	46	11

GRADE 2

Kuringal	16	5	3	46	17	37
Yugal	16	5	3	55	28	37
Fairy M.	14	6	4	47	22	34
W'gong	14	5	5	49	18	33
Bl'town	14	5	5	44	20	33

GRADE 1

Warringah	5	9	45	52	20	22

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COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE REPORT

By Paul James



AUBURN NOT UNHAPPY ABOUT '81

It might surprise some people to learn that Auburn officials feel they have had a fairly good year this season.

"If you consider the hardships we have had to contend with this year, then the fact that we have won seven matches is certainly an achievement," said Auburn secretary Fred Parker.

"We survived in the State League against great odds which at first we thought might stamp us," he said.

Fred said the club faced very significant financial problems at the start of the year, involving cut-backs in the money given to the soccer team by the social club.

go on to represent Australia," Fred said.

"If either one comes off it will ease our problems greatly," he said.

"On the field we should also improve."

"The younger players were often thrown in at the deep end in critical matches."

"It was not something we wanted to do but it was forced on us through injuries and transfers."

"But the young lads have found their feet, and I feel that by the start of the 1982 season the newer players will also begin to feel part of the unit," he added.

"I think we will be able to improve the relationship between the two bodies," he said.

Fred also hinted that the club had been talking to two potential sponsors.

"The deals rely on us staying in the State League — something I'm

Two weeks ago Bankstown officials put up a brave front and proudly stated that they felt the team would avoid relegation.

Privately, however, most conceded that it would be a very difficult task — a task that could only be achieved by a 100 percent effort of everyone in the club.

And although there are still two rounds to go, Bankstown feel they may have pulled off the biggest escape trick since Harry Houdini dazzled his way into history.

According to reliable reports there has never been anything quite like the atmosphere in the club now.

Club secretary Jim Giffin confirms this, and says the past two weeks have seen a regeneration within the club.

"Two weeks ago I predicted we'd get six points from the three matches last week, and we did it!" he exclaimed.

Jim said that the team spirit in first grade has soared after the results.

"Last Sunday the clubhouse has reverberating to the sounds of singing and laughing like it hasn't done in a long time.

"You'd have thought we'd won the championship!" he said.

But Jim said the players and the club had no illusions.

McDonald

"We had to scrap the youth teams and that meant a break in our youth development plans," Fred said.

"We also found that we were living on a shoestring budget for the grade sides.

"We have no real chance of hanging onto players we wanted to keep, because in many cases we couldn't match the offers of other clubs.

"However, the loss of the older players proved a plus in many regards as well," he said.

"We were forced into looking at our younger players, in the second and third grades, and we discovered some very talented boys.

"Wayne Bates, Darren McInerney, Rod Brown, Patty Sullivan and Mark Callanan are examples of the talent we have unearthed.

"Some of those lads have even represented New South Wales at a State Level, and we hope that they will eventually

"We realise that we still have two matches remaining, against Croatia and Riverwood.

"They are not easy games — of that we are well aware."

"But without being too optimistic we are in the right frame of mind now to even cause Croatia some headaches," he said.

"When we played them in the first round

we gave them the shock of their lives.

"They led 2-0 and then we pulled back to be level 2-2 before we suffered some incredible bad luck in defence and went down 5-2," Jim said.

He said that in the past three matches he has noticed a greater emphasis on teamwork and team effort in the Bankstown side.

"I don't think you could point out one man and say he's the one who has staged the revival," because they have all lifted their games," Jim said.

"Last week against Parramatta we were leading by two goals for the first time this year, I think.

"Usually we all have to suffer a dozen heart attacks during the second

Champ-elects not sure about PSL

Croatia officials are fairly confident now that their team will take its fourth State League title in the past five years.

The last two matches are against Bankstown this week and Parramatta next Sunday.

"If we don't pick up four points against those two teams, then we don't deserve to be champions," one club official said.

"We took three points from St George this year, and we look like going through the season un-beaten.

"That would be a tremendous bonus for

us," he said.

Possibly the most widespread talk within the club at present is regarding a possible application by Croatia for admittance to the Phillips League.

The NSW Federation would probably not be too happy at the thought of losing their ace trump card, but Croatia have said over the past few seasons that their aim is to enter the PSL.

And with Blacktown City slumped in 15th position, and therefore occupying one of the two relegation places, Croatia's hopes have been raised.

Club president Tony Topic has said the club will wait as long as possible before making a decision about the PSL.

It is known that St George will ask its members to decide whether or not the club should re-apply for PSL status.

Moves are afoot in the Croatia club to do likewise.

One of the great obstacles in Croatia's path into the PSL is the issue of club names.

The Australian Soccer Federation has adopted a policy of de-ethnicising the club names, and so Croatia's name if they enter the PSL would also have to change.

Croatia fans and officials alike are adamant, however, that their name will not change.

If they cannot keep their club name, they don't want any part of the PSL.

One official who did not want to be named, said there had been suggestions by some officials that the club name could be slightly altered.

"There was a suggestion we could be known as Sydney Croatia, or Sydney Kings in preference to the King Tomislav Park ground.

half," he joked.

"But for once we had the luxury of a two-goal lead.

"Even so, the players fought for every ball and refused to give in," he said.

"Last week against Parramatta we were leading by two goals for the first time this year, I think.

"Jim said several times it looked as if Parramatta would pull a goal back.

"Once, one of our defenders had to clear off the goal-line.

"My heart stopped, but he cleared it and when he got up he gave a clenched fist victory salute.

"It was as if he'd scored," Jim added.

Jim said the side was as ready as it ever will be for the remaining two matches.

"If we can keep the injury list to a minimum, then I think we'll give Croatia more than they bargained for and I'm pretty confident now that Bankstown will be in the State League next season," he said.

said.

"All the teams that are in the Grand Finals come from Phillips League clubs.

"Those clubs have had determined youth policies for years, and that is why they have been able to establish themselves.

"But even those lads won't be able to move into the various grades.

He said the Inter-district finale of the NSW Federation this coming weekend were a perfect example of what he means.

"You have the Grand

Finals of the Under-14,

15 and 16 competitions,

with the cream of the

NSW Federation's

youngsters on view.

"Well, I'll tell you. It's because the clubs don't show enough interest in those kids after that age.

"It's the age when the

State League clubs and

there are

coaches from State League or Phillips

League teams will be

there to watch?" Eric

is

the

crowd

support

would almost cer-

tainly di-

away.

"It wouldn't just drop

off — it would die.

"Then we would be no

more of an asset to the

PSL than any other Syd-

ney team with limited

crowd support."

He said he knew there

were moves afoot to cut

the number of Sydney

teams, by relegating say

Blacktown and not

promoting a State

League team.

"It is a hard decision for us to make — whether to take on the extra work and financial burden of the PSL or remain in the State League another year and keep on building up our club and team for our members," he said.



Peter Hensman, Croatia

B'TOWN HAVE NO FEAR OF CROATIA

Man called Smith opts for youth...

Riverwood's secretary Eric Smith is what some people would call the 'new breed' of soccer administrators.

He's young, enthusiastic and mad keen on the game.

And while officials in the higher echelons of the game concentrate on club logos, names, new ideas and 'hard sell' marketing, Eric has concentrated on the basics of the game.

His 'pet' topic is youth development, a subject on which he can talk to the point of exhaustion.

But he doesn't like to brandish about the figures that other officials so readily produce when the topic of youth soccer is mentioned.

He is strictly a quality man.

To me the main thing is to get good quality players — good quality Australian players — into our sides," he said.

"It is the easy way and the wrong way for us to say to clubs to put six or seven or eight Australian players in their sides.

"We've seen the

results of that.

"There are too many players who really shouldn't be in the State League teams, let alone the third grade sides and heaping attention and facilities on them to encourage them to stay in the game.

"But more often than not the 16-year-olds get fed up with the game."

Eric said he felt it was a give and take situation.

People have said the kids should plug on and make it with their own determination. But they can't succeed unless the clubs provide the places.

"Both sides need to give a little," Eric said.

He said the Inter-district finale of the NSW Federation this coming weekend were a perfect example of what he means.

"You have the Grand Finale of the Under-14, 15 and 16 competitions, with the cream of the NSW Federation's youngsters on view.

"Well, I'll tell you. It's because the clubs don't show enough interest in those kids after that age.

"It's the age when the State League clubs and

APIA'S TREBLE

APIA have achieved a remarkable treble: all their teams are in the Grand Final of the NSW Youth League.

The matches will be played on Saturday evening at Barton Park: at 6pm the Under-14s, APIA v Sydney Olympic; at 7pm the Under-15s, APIA v St. George and at 8.15pm the Under-16s,

APIA v Blacktown.

APIA can be happy with its youth development policy which seems to bear rich fruit.

The Under-14s are coached by former Yugoslav great Ferdo Dunaj, the Under-15s by Joe Leto and Tony Raciti and the Under-16s by former Australian international Cliff Van Blerk.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

Is Croatia ready for the Philips League? Or perhaps the other way: is the Philips League ready for Croatia?

This could be one of the most interesting rid- dies in the next few weeks as Croatia is racing towards the State title and Blacktown is slipping towards relegation.

Last week's 10,000 crowd at the Croatia match must have set quite a poser to the ASF.

Here we have a club capable of producing a giant-sized crowd for a State League match, out in the wilderness, at a ground without a single seat.

The logical thing would seem to be to admit Croatia to the Philips League.

But this is where logic falters.

The present policy of the ASF is to discourage "nationalistic trends" in clubs.

They won't even allow Leichhardt to revert back to their old name, APIA — although the four letters, ever so cleverly construed, are mere abbreviations.

What chance would Croatia have to be accepted, under their present name?

They are likely to be told to drop the name, colors, emblems and all other insignia they now carry and adopt a neutral name, something like Edensor Eels.

And with that the club's support will nosedive from its present average of 6,000 (and potential of 10,000) to a mere few hundred.

Croatia is the last remaining bastion of truly nationalistic clubs in NSW: its entire operation is based on fierce patriotism, a desperate fight for a political cause.

It may well be a most legitimate cause: that's not the issue here.

However, if you remove the cause, you remove the raison d'être of the club — and kill most of its lively support.

Of course, the Croatia-affair is not a new one: over the years, our various NSW administrations have been struggling to find a "solution" to it.

A couple of times they changed the club's name, once to Metro Adriatic, once to South Sydney.

But Croatia — the name, the club and the spirit — have survived.

This may be envied, admired or condemned, according to your political views.

Yet I bet my last dollar that the club leaders of our Italian, Greek, Jewish, Hungarian, Polish and other community-backed clubs would give anything to be able to re-create the same fervent, passionate following Croatia enjoys.

Alas, they can't: Croatia is unique. What holds them together is their undimishing desire to retain

the traditions and cultures of a race (or nation) which is now wholly and fully absorbed into another country.

The same motivation is missing with the other ethnic groups.

Now the big question is this: recognising all these factors, should Croatia, as such, be allowed into the PSL — or should they be banished into permanent oblivion?

Does top soccer need badly enough a club which can bring large crowds and "atmosphere" to our grounds — or can we afford the luxury of sticking to dubious principles which bar "ethnic names"?

And anyway: Croatia is not much more of an ethnic name than is Olympic or Marconi — if there is a difference, it's only a nuance.

My hunch is that Croatia, under that name, will be rejected by the ASF who really appear to have to believe its own jingoistic creed of "australiansing" soccer.

Despite heaps of evidence to the contrary, they pretend to believe that one day the Bankstown, Parramatta, Auburns, Blacktowns and other district clubs will create a soccer boom based on purely non-ethnic support.

The events of the past 25 years, the continuing and continuous failures of district clubs to do just that is not accepted as proof; our administrations still cling to the belief that this will change.

Perhaps it will. But not in our lifetime and not this century, either.

We have what we have in Australian soccer: the make-up and the structure cannot be altered by mere wishful thinking.

Croatia, with its vast, purely nationalistic support, is a fact while the boom of the district clubs is a mere unfounded hope.

The ASF may have to decide soon whether they prefer reality or their own dreamworld.

Of course, there is yet another possibility — NOT to fill the vacancies which are likely to occur through the relegation of West Adelaide (certain to go) and Blacktown (likely to follow).

Adelaide would probably suffer through having only one PSL team — but even this is not certain.

The West Adelaide fans would still go and see their team in action in the State League while the Ad. City supporters hardly bother now to watch their rivals.

As for Sydney, this would be a chance to reduce the PSL quota from the inflated five to four.

Everybody agrees — including the clubs — that Sydney cannot support five PSL teams; perhaps not even four or three.

The crowds aren't there — and certainly not the players either.

It's sheer nonsense to claim that the five Sydney clubs can attract the necessary 80 to 90 quality players to their ranks.

At least three of the five teams carry "passengers" at the moment whose ability would hardly warrant anything more ambitious than a State League outfit.

Take Leichhardt, Olympic and Blacktown, for instance.

For these three clubs to secure more players of the O'Connor, Wilson, Giampaolo, Butler, Katholos, Raskopoulos, Jennings, Djordjevic, Burrows and O'Donnell class — to name some of their stalwarts — would mean a capital outlay of about \$100,000 each — if such players did become available.

But where are they? There's a trickle from State League clubs, a few can be found interstate — but the majority would have to be imported from overseas.

And to keep five PSL clubs running in Sydney which cannot be staffed by locally produced talent is a sheer anachronism.

Sydney was NEVER meant to have five PSL teams in the first place.

When APIA declined to join the party, it looked certain that the four teams would be Hakoah, St. George, Western Suburbs and Marconi.

In the last moment Olympic was added as an after-thought.

Western Suburbs dropped out after two struggling years, Olympic were relegated at the end of 1979 and St. George at the end of 1980 — and now it looks like Blacktown's turn.

If you also consider that both Marconi and Olympic are closer to the bottom than the top and that some of the crowds, even at their dubious "official" level, show a declining interest, you've got a situation that would fully justify cutting back the Sydney quota to four teams.

— Andrew Dettre

SOCCER WORLD

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Published by SOCCER WORLD PUBLISHING PTY LTD., Roseville, NSW, and printed at Service Press, Waterloo, NSW.

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OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO —

- Andy Bozikas (Heidelberg)
 - Roy Drinkwater (Newcastle)
 - Peter Ollerton (Preston)
- on having played their 100th PSL match.

Marconi's coma lasted a bit too long

PHILIPS CUP

Krnicevic in particular cuts a pathetic figure: he meanders through the field as if in a coma.

At this rate of progress he is in the Socceroo squad only for so far.

Now the match, Lions, amazingly well organised and purposeful, were clearly in control for some 60 minutes.

During that time, exploiting some deadly lapses of the Marconi defence, they scored three goals and waltzed into the Cup final.

Marconi awakened only in the last 25 minutes or so, mainly through the efforts of Henderson, Byrne and Jankovic.

An 18-metre Jankovic shot in the 67th minute made it 1-3 and then a prod from close range, following a good Hunter cross in the 83rd minute, provided an exciting finale.

In the 89th minute Ontong cleared on the Lions goal-line and one minute later a Brogan drive died off on an arm without the expected penalty.

In extra time came a strange incident. Williamson broke through the Marconi siege and flew towards the goal; he pushed the ball wide and was about to round Maher when the goalie dived and grabbed him.

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worth Enterprises for calendars and tin-plate badges, by Trelor Sporting Equipment for school bags and toy soccer balls, by Lucinda Enterprises for caps, beanies, iron-on transfers ties and umbrellas.

Actively Creative and Maher Enterprises are also both in production right now of a wide range of supporter merchandise in the new Philips Soccer League team designs, including stickers, transfers, keyrings and stadium cushions.

Further information from: E. John Clark, Marketing Manager, Australian Soccer Federation Marketing. Phone: 922-5733.